

T-965
Charles E. Leonard House
Oxford
Private

c. 1880

The Charles E. Leonard house is one of the more unusual late nineteenth-century dwellings standing along North Morris Street. Its diminutive size and variety of architectural detail make the house a distinctive architectural element in the streetscape. The asymmetrically planned house has an uneven front elevation with a recessed entrance bay sheltered by a chamfered post porch embellished with sawn corner brackets. Decorative brackets also embellish the cornice returns of the main roof, and delicate wooden finials rise from the peak of several gables. The interior retains a large portion of its late nineteenth-century woodwork including a turned baluster stair railing and Victorian mantels on the first floor.

Chain of title research for this lot traces its ownership back to Charles E. Leonard, who purchased this lot from Samuel Stewart in 1880. As indicated on the 1877 town map the lot was unimproved. Charles E. Leonard died eight years later, and in his will he passed the Oxford house and lot to his wife Nellie G. Leonard, who apparently remarried and moved to Baltimore. Under the name of Nellie G. Graham of Baltimore City, she sold the property to Howard W. Newnam in August 1902 for \$600. The first indication of a house on this lot is provided by the Sanborn Insurance Company map published in 1891.

The next long-term owner were John E. and Sarah Elizabeth Stevens, who acquired the property in 1915. Stevens family tenure continued until 1955.

MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION

RESOURCE NAME: Charles E. Leonard House

MHT INVENTORY NUMBER: T-965

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

1. Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture
2. Geographic Orientation: Eastern Shore
3. Chronological/Development Period(s): Industrial-Urban Dominance
1870-1930
4. Resource Type(s): Single family dwelling

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. T-965

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Charles E. Leonard House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 206 North Morris Street ☐ not for publicationcity, town Oxford ☐ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Talbot

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Thomas Collin Corl and Mary F. Cotton

street & number 206 North Morris Street telephone no.:

city, town Oxford state and zip code MD 21654

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Talbot County Clerk of Court Map 400, P. 562
liber 616

street & number Talbot County Courthouse folio 401

city, town Easton state MD 21601

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

pository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. T-965

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Charles E. Leonard house is located at 206 North Morris Street in the center of Oxford, Talbot County, Maryland. The two-and-a-half story, asymmetrically planned frame house faces west with the principal gable roof oriented on an east/west axis.

Estimated to date around 1880, the two-and-a-half story frame house follows a tee-plan with a story-and-a-half kitchen wing to the rear. Supported on a low brick pier foundation, the exterior is clad with vinyl siding, and the steeply pitched roof is covered with asphalt shingles.

The west (main) elevation is an asymmetrical facade with a projecting gable end wall juxtaposed against a recessed side entrance that pierces the south leg of the tee-shaped main block. A chamfered post porch decorated with sawn brackets shelters the first floor. Piercing the first floor of the gable end wall is a paired single-pane sash window opening flanked by louvered shutters. The front entrance is distinguished by a two-light transom and three-light sidelights. The front door is partially glazed with beveled glass above the lock rail. Raised panels framed by ogee moldings distinguish the door below the lock rail. Piercing the second floor of the gable-front wall is a two-over-two sash window flanked by louvered shutters. Lighting the attic is a round arched window. The edge of the roof is finished with an extended eave trimmed with decorative brackets under the returns. Fixed atop the peak of the roof is a wooden finial. A narrow brick stove chimney rises through the center of the house. A second wood finial is fixed to the peak of the south gable end.

Attached to the back of the house is a story-and-a-half kitchen wing that extends eastward with a long shed roofed addition covered by a seamed tin roof. Six-over-six sash windows light the rear wing and the edge of the roof is finished with a flush eave and plain bargeboard. Attached to the south side of the house is a single story enclosed porch.

The interior retains a large portion of its late nineteenth-century woodwork. Remaining in the front hall is a Victorian staircase with a boldly turned newel post, a molded handrail, turned balusters, and a scroll decorated stringer. A light-weight beaded board door opens into the stair closet. Four-panel doors are framed by beaded edge surrounds. Victorian mantels remain on the first floor.

8. Significance

Survey No. T-965

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates	Builder/Architect
check: Applicable Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D	
and/or	
Applicable Exception: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G	
Level of Significance: <input type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> local	

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Charles E. Leonard house is one of the more unusual late nineteenth-century dwellings standing along North Morris Street. Its diminutive size and variety of architectural detail make the house a distinctive architectural element in the streetscape. The asymmetrically planned house has an uneven front elevation with a recessed entrance bay sheltered by a chamfered post porch embellished with sawn corner brackets. Decorative brackets also embellish the cornice returns of the main roof, and delicate wooden finials rise from the peak of several gables. The interior retains a large portion of its late nineteenth-century woodwork including a turned baluster stair railing and Victorian mantels on the first floor.

Chain of title research for this lot traces its ownership back to Charles E. Leonard, who purchased this lot from Samuel Stewart in 1880.¹ As indicated on the 1877 town map the lot was unimproved.² Charles E. Leonard died eight years later, and in his will he passed the Oxford house and lot to his wife Nellie G. Leonard, who apparently remarried and moved to Baltimore. Under the name of Nellie G. Graham of Baltimore City, she sold the property to Howard W. Newnam in August 1902 for \$600.³ The first indication of a house on this lot is provided by the Sanborn Insurance Company map published in 1891.⁴

The next long-term owners were John E. and Sarah Elizabeth Stevens, who acquired the property in 1915.⁵ Stevens family tenure continued until 1955.⁶

¹ Talbot County Land Record, JFT 90/66, 5 July (?) 1880.

² John L. Graham, ed. The 1877 Atlases of the Eastern Shore, Peninsula Press, p. 101.

³ Talbot County Land Record, FGW 138/116, 26 August 1902.

⁴ Sanborn Insurance Map, 1891, Maryland State Archives.

⁵ Talbot County Land Record, 170/170, 24 March 1915.

⁶ Talbot County Land Record, JTB 322/369, 12 May 1955.

Survey No. T-965

T-965
Charles E. Leonard House
206 North Morris Street
Oxford, Talbot County, Maryland
Chain of title

Map 400, Parcel 562

616/401 Judith T. Marshall, Teri K. Donahue (formerly Teri J. Kretzer)
and Sally M. Trammell

to

6/30/1986 Thomas Collin Corl
Mary F. Cotton
150' north from the intersection of Morris and Willis Streets

JTB 573/411 Judith T. Marshall (Personal representative of the estate of
Frances T. Trammell)

to

4/19/1983 Judith T. Marshall
Teri J. Kreitzer
Sally M. Trammell

445/415 Lola M. Harris, widow

to

8/14/1970 William R. Trammell, Jr.
Frances T. Trammell

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Charles E. Leonard House
206 N. Morris Street
Oxford, Talbot County, Maryland
Chain of title continued

Page 2

JTB 322/369

John Edward Stevens
Mary C. Stevens

to

5/12/1955

Aubrey B. Harris and Lola E. Harris

the revisionary fee simple title to which was conveyed to the said John E. Stevens and Sarah Elizabeth Stevens....by the entireties from the Safe Deposit and Trust Company, 4/29/1921, 189/299 the said John E. Stevens died, intestate, 6/25/1937, leaving his sole widow, Sarah Elizabeth Stevens and only child John Edward Stevens, one of the grantors herein

170/170

Charles E. Stevenson

to

3/24/1915

John E. Stevens
Sarah Elizabeth Stevens

FGW 154/105

Howard W. Newnam

to

3/11/1909

Charles E. Stevenson
\$600 whereas the leasehold property hereinafter described was conveyed or intended to be conveyed by the said Howard W. Newnam to Charles E. Stevenson, 10/1/1902, FGW 138/471, deed is defective...grantor is named Charles E. Newnam...

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Oxford, Talbot County, Maryland
Chain of title continued

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FGW 138/116

Nellie G. Graham of Baltimore City

to

8/26/1902

Howard W. Newnam

\$600

Will Book
EHR 13/286

Charles E. Leonard

to

Written
1/20/1888
Proved
4/6/1888

Nellie G. Leonard

“To my wife Nellie G. Leonard all the residue of my
property and earthly possessions out of which she is to
pay all my indebtedness...”

JFT 90/66

Samuel Stewart

to

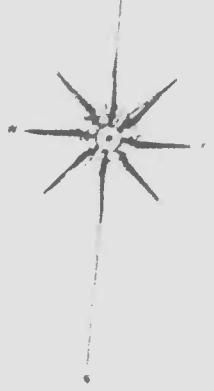
7 ?/5/1880

Charles E. Leonard

Capt
D Jones D.
I



Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson Atlas
1877



63

MORRIS

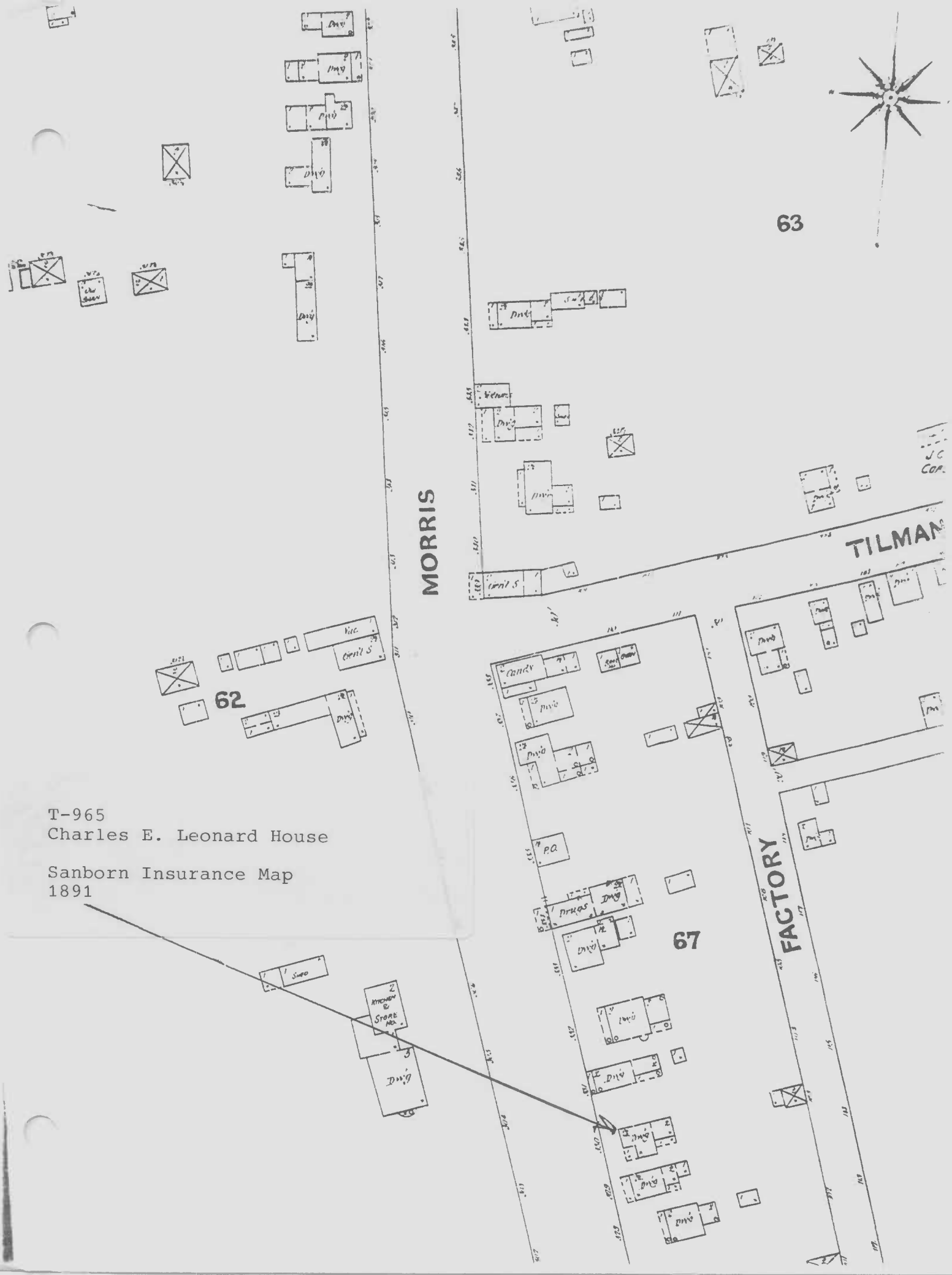
TILMAN

62

67

FACTORY

T-965
Charles E. Leonard House
Sanborn Insurance Map
1891





T-965
Charles E. Leonard House
Oxford, Maryland Quadrangle
1942



T-965

CHARLES E. LEONARD HOUSE

OXFORD, TARRANT CO., MD

WEST ELEVATION

6/98, PAUL TOUANT, PHOTOGRAPHER

NEB. / MD HISTORICAL TRUST

1 OF 3



T-965

CHARLES E. LEONARD HOUSE

Oxford, Talbot Co., MD.

Cornice detail

6/98, PAUL TOUANT, PHOTOGRAPHER

Neg. / MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

2 OF 3



T-965

CHARLES E. LEONARD HOUSE

Oxford, Talbot Co., MD.

PO BOX

6/98, PAUL TOWERS, PHOTOGRAPHY

NEL./MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

3 or 3